

NORTH AMERICAN SPHECOMYIA
(DIPTERA, SYRPHIDÆ)

BY RAYMOND C. SHANNON

Bureau of Entomology

The species of the genus *Sphecomyia* are remarkable for their close resemblance to the yellow-jacket wasps, *Vespa*. The similarity of *S. vittata* is extraordinary, for even the antennæ are greatly elongated, being quite equal to those of wasps; while *pattoni* and *dyari*, which have small antennæ, have black and enlarged fore tarsi which are probably used to simulate long antennæ by extending them forwards. The species are apparently confined to the North American Pacific Coast region, except *vittata*, which appears to be of holarctic distribution.

TABLE OF SPECIES OF SPHECOMYIA LATREILLE

- A1. Second, third, and fourth tergites each with a single yellow crossband, the posterior half of tergites black; fore legs mostly yellow; width of third antennal joint equal to length of first two (Ore., Wn., B. C.).....*nasica* Osborn
- A2. Second, third, and fourth tergites each with a pair of yellow crossbands, sometimes partly fused.
- B1. Fore tibia except base and fore tarsi black; arista much longer than antenna; mesonotum black.
- C1. Scutellum yellow pilose; third vein moderately curved downward (Calif.).....*dyari*, n. sp.
- C2. Scutellum black pilose; third vein practically straight (Ore., Ida.)*pattoni* Williston
- B2. Fore legs almost entirely yellow; mesonotum with yellow markings.
- C1. Arista as long as antenna; mesonotum with lateral markings (B. C., Wn., Idaho)....*occidentalis* Osborn
- C2. Arista much shorter than antenna; mesonotum with a pair of median, interrupted stripes.
- D1. Antenna greatly elongated; arista about one-third the length of second joint (holartic)
.....*vittata* Wiedemann
- D2. Antenna moderately elongate, arista longer than second antennal joint (Calif. Ore., B. C.)
.....*brevicornis* Osten Sacken

***Sphecomyia dyari* Shannon, n. sp.**

Female. Closely related to *pattoni*, but differs in a number of features as follows: General appearance noticeably more robust; head as broad as high (higher than broad in *pattoni*); antennal prominence less projecting; face slightly broader and

less excavated; antennæ more elongate, the third joint distinctly shorter than the first two, mesonotum more shining; two yellowish pollinose spots between the humeri; discal crossvein less oblique; third vein distinctly curved; yellow abdominal bands noticeably broader, the interrupted ones with their inner ends squared. Length, 15.5 mm.; wing, 13 mm.

Type-locality. Gold Lake Camp, Plumas County, California, July 19, 1916 (H. G. Dyar).

Type. Cat. No. 27,834, U. S. N. M.

Named for Dr. H. G. Dyar, who has added numerous Diptera to the National collection, taken during his countrywide searches for Culicidæ. This species may prove to be a race of *pattoni*.

A USEFUL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Parshley, Howard M. Bibliography of the North American Hemiptera-Heteroptera. Smith College Fiftieth Anniversary Publication. Northampton, Mass. 252 pages.

Of the working tools of the systematic entomologist perhaps nothing has more value than a good bibliography. In the book cited above Dr. H. M. Parshley has given the hemipterist just such a help and has earned the sincere gratitude that will be fully accorded him. In addition to listing the works dealing with the systematic side of the subject he has wisely included papers on the biology of the group and many treating purely of the economic aspect of the subject. The names of the authors are arranged alphabetically, and under each author the titles are in chronological order, with a letter added, where necessary, so the Marks system of reference can be used if desired.

In the publication of my Catalogue of the Hemiptera of America North of Mexico, the very bulk of the volume made it advisable for me to omit most references to the biologic and economic literature included in the Henshaw Bibliography of Economic Entomology and its continuations, and all bibliography except the briefest possible reference to the serials and books whose abbreviations appeared in the pages of the catalogue. Dr. Parshley's Bibliography now supplies this omission very completely. No entomologist whose labors touch the Heteroptera at all can afford to be without this new bibliographical help.—E. P. Van Duzee.